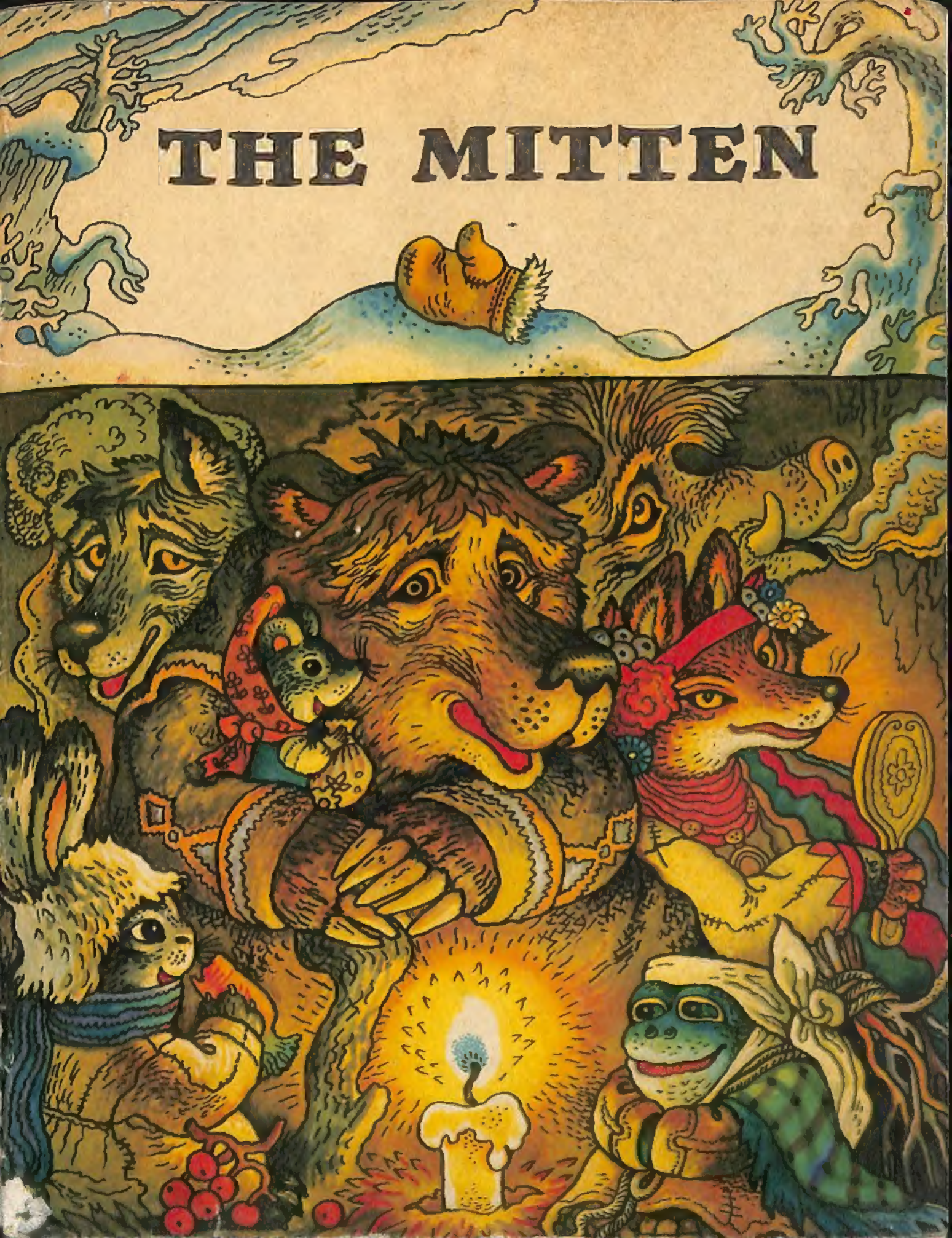
THE MITTEN



Translated from Ukrainian
by Viktor Ruzhytsky

Illustrated
by Valentyna Melnychenko

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THE MITTEN

Ukrainian Folk Tale

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Once an old man went walking through the forest with his dog and lost a mitten.
Presently, a mouse scampered up and crawled into the mitten.
"I'll make it my home," he said.

Then a frog came hopping up and asked, "Who's here?"
"I am, Snap-Scrap the Mouse. And who are you?"
"I'm Plip-Plop the Frog. Let me in, please."
"All right. Hop in."
Now there were two of them in the mitten.

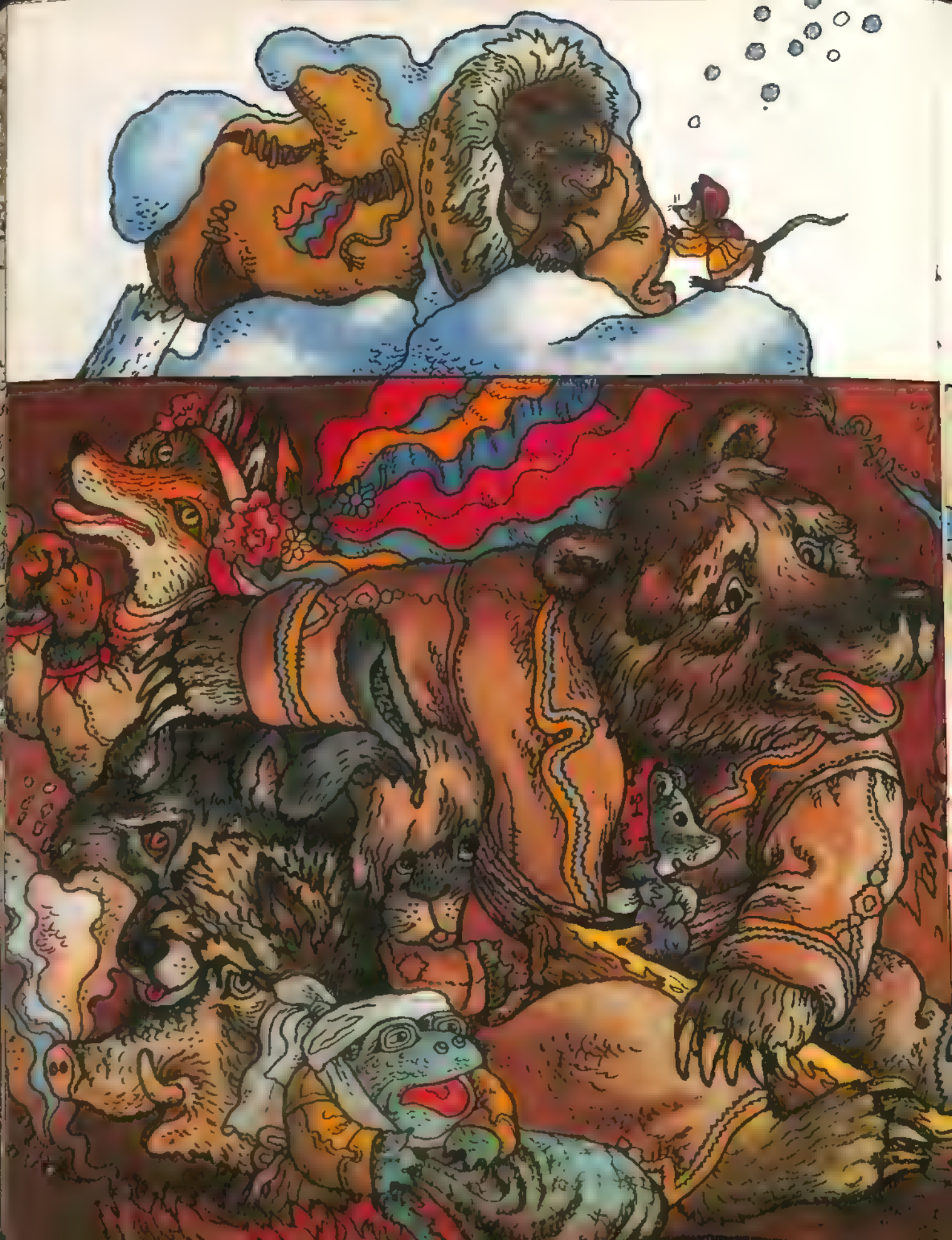
Soon a rabbit scuttled up and asked, "Who's in there?"
"We are: Snap-Scrap the Mouse and Plip-Plop the Frog. And who are you?"
"I'm Brisk-Frisk the Rabbit. Let me in, please."
"All right. Jump in."

Now there were three of them in the mitten.
After a while a fox trotted up and asked eagerly, Who's in there?"
"We are: Snap-Scrap the Mouse, Plip-Plop the Frog, and Brisk-Frisk the Rabbit. And who are you?"
"I'm Sweet-Cheat the Fox. Let me in, please."
"Very well. Trot in."
Now there were four of them in the mitten.

Then a wolf came loping up and asked, "Who's in there?"
"We are: Snap-Scrap the Mouse, Plip-Plop the Frog, Brisk-Frisk the Rabbit, and Sweet-Cheat the Fox. And who are you?"
"I'm Prowl-Howl the Wolf. Let me in, please."
"Come in then."
So he went in, and now there were five of them in the mitten.
Suddenly, a boar appeared from nowhere and asked fiercely as he rushed up to the mitten, "Grunt! Grunt! Grunt! Who's in there?"

„We are: Snap-Scrap the Mouse, Plip-Plop the Frog, Brisk-Frisk the Rabbit, Sweet-Cheat the Fox, and Prowl-Howl the Wolf. And who are you?"
"I'm Blunt-Grunt the Boar. Let me in."
"Oh dear! Everyone who comes up wants to get inside this mitten. But there's no more room."
"I'll manage somehow. Do let me in."
"It can't be helped. Come in."
So he also came in. Now there were six of them altogether, and they really had to crowd themselves to make room for the Boar.

Finally, there was a loud snapping of twigs and the thud of steps. A bear appeared up from the thicket and headed straight for the mitten, growling, "Who's in there?"
"We are: Snap-Scrap the Mouse, Plip-Plop the Frog, Brisk-Frisk the Rabbit, Sweet-Cheat the Fox, Prowl-Howl the Wolf, and Blunt-Grunt the Boar. And who are you?"



"Grr! Grr! That's what I call a crowd. And I'm Rumble-Grumble the Bear. Let me in, please."
"But how can we let you in? We're packed in tight as it is."
"Never mind. Let it be just one more for good measure."
"Well, come in, but don't push."

So the Bear squeezed himself in, and now there were seven of them. And the mitten was so jammed with forest creatures that it was about to burst.
Meanwhile the old man saw that his mitten was missing and turned back to look for it. His dog ran ahead until he

spotted the lost article. But he was so puzzled to see it moving that he said, "Bow-wow!"
The mitten dwellers run out and dashed away as fast as they could into the forest.
The old man came, picked up his mitten and continued on his way.

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